

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US WORK PLAN FOR JOINT IC/CSTP WORKING PARTY
ON TECHNOLOGY AND STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION OF
INDUSTRY

1. MISSION REQUESTED PASS FOLLOWING DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR
JOINT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE/CSTP STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION OF
INDUSTRY PROGRAM TO ALVAREZ DE TOLEDO FOR HIS REVIEW
PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND. ALSO
ASK ALVAREZ TO BRING WITH HIM AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 16 IC
BUREAU MEETING IF POSSIBLE.

2. WORK PROGRAM - DRAFT MANDATE FOR JOINT WORKING PARTY
FORMED BY OECD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND INDUSTRY
COMMITTEES CALLS FOR IMPROVED DEFINITIONS OF CONDITIONS
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UNDER WHICH GOVERNMENT POLICIES CAN ENABLE TECHNOLOGY TO

CONTRIBUTE FULLY TO STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION OF INDUSTRY, IN PARTICULAR ADAPTATION TO TRENDS RESULTING FROM MODIFICATIONS IN THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION, CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL DEMAND STRUCTURES, REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS, AND CHANGING SOCIAL PRIORITIES. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THE WORKING PARTY IS INSTRUCTED TO INQUIRE INTO EXISTING STUDY MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF A CASE-HISTORY NATURE; TO OUTLINE A TASK THAT WOULD IDENTIFY THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

POLICY IN INDUSTRY ADAPTATION, SPECIFYING THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH WOULD BE EXPECTED OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS; AND TO REPORT FINDINGS TO THE 1976 SUMMER SESSIONS OF THE PARENT COMMITTEES.

3. SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS GENERAL MANDATE SUGGESTS FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF WORK:

-- PAST KEY INSTANCES IN WHICH TECHNOLOGY HAS AFFECTED STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN INDUSTRY ARE TO BE IDENTIFIED AND ANALYZED.

-- FUTURE INSTANCES WHERE TECHNOLOGY IS LIKELY TO AFFECT STANDARD CHANGES IN INDUSTRY WHETHER PROJECTED ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING OR INDEPENDENTLY FORECAST, ARE ALSO TO BE IDENTIFIED AND ANALYZED.

-- WHEN GOVERNMENTAL TECHNOLOGY POLICIES CAN BE SHOWN TO HAVE HAD A MARKED EFFECT ON PAST INDUSTRIAL ADAPTATIONS, WHETHER RESTRAINING OR FACILITATING, THEIR EFFECT SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED AND QUANTIFIED TO EXTENT POSSIBLE; THIS SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH DIRECT INDUSTRY CONTACT.

-- AFTER ANALYSIS, PROBABLE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY POLICY EFFECTS ON INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING ARE TO BE ELABORATED, AND WHATEVER MULTINATIONAL PROBLEMS OR POSSIBILITIES EMERGE ARE TO BE DESCRIBED.

-- SIGNIFICANCE OF TECHNOLOGY SHOULD NOT BE JUDGED AS TO ITS RELATIVE LEVEL OF "HIGH" OR "LOW"
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TECHNOLOGY, BUT RATHER IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PERTINENT TO OUR INTERESTS IF IT, TECHNOLOGY PER SE, WAS A SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE IN WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN AREA OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE.

4. ACCORDINGLY, THE FOLLOWING WORKING PROCEDURE IS PROPOSED:

STEP 1. REQUEST OF WORKING PARTY MEMBERS SUCH INVESTIGATIONS AS MAY HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED ON TECHNOLOGY-INDUSTRY INTERACTION, BOTH PAST AND PROJECTED.
(U.S. CAN OFFER AT LEAST THREE ON CALCULATORS, CONSUMER ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, AND SEMICONDUCTORS).

STEP 2. REVIEW RESULTS OF STEP 1 TO IDENTIFY INSTANCES IN WHICH STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN INDUSTRY CLEARLY INVOLVED TECHNOLOGY AS A CAUSAL FACTOR.

STEP 3. EXAMINE RESULTS OF STEP 2 IN LIGHT OF TECHNOLOGY POLICIES (BOTH EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT) PREVAILING WITHIN THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED AND IDENTIFY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THOSE POLICIES AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES THAT EMERGED AS SIGNIFICANT IN STEP 2.

STEP 4. DRAWING UPON STEPS 1, 2, & 3, PREPARE FOR PARENT COMMITTEES A SUMMATION OF THE RESULTS TO DATE, DERIVING AND PROJECTING CONCLUSIONS AS WARRANTED AND INDICATING FURTHER CASE STUDIES THAT WILL SHED FURTHER LIGHT ON EFFECT UPON SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES OF PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGY POLICIES THAT DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ADEQUATELY COVERED IN MATERIAL SO FAR EXAMINED.

5. QUESTION MAY ALSO BE RAISED AS TO MERITS OF A PARALLEL CONSIDERATION HAVING THE SAME STEPS AS THOSE OUTLINED ABOVE. THESE STEPS COULD BE FOLLOWED STARTING WITH A REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY POLICIES. SUCH AN OUTPUT COULD BE RANGED AGAINST INDUSTRIAL ADAPTATIONS INFLUENCED BY TECHNOLOGY TO REVEAL THE SAME KIND OF CONCLUSIONS AND NEED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION THAT WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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EMERGE FROM THE PROCESS OUTLINED ABOVE. KISSINGER

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